

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently cast a "yea" vote on rollcall No. 537, as part of the consideration of the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. I would like to change my vote on the amendment to "nay."

When I cast my vote, I was under the impression that this amendment was a measure solely designed to reduce the federal deficit. However, after casting my vote I learned that this deceptive policy amendment specifically zeroes out money for climate change projects within the Corps' Operations and Maintenance Program. I oppose this amendment as I believe that the Corps and the entire federal government need to work quickly to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt infrastructure so it is capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change. I also oppose the amendment because I believe that sneaking deceptive policy riders into appropriations legislation is not the proper way to create policy and govern this great nation.

I have the privilege of representing Memphis, Tennessee, which was inundated this year with historic floods. There is no doubt in my mind that these floods were exacerbated by climate change which caused record snowfalls and rainfalls across the Midwest that resulted in the record flooding. As bad as these floods were, the impacts would have been magnitudes worse had it not been for the Army Corps of Engineers' tremendous work to control the flood. I strongly support the Army Corps and appreciate their efforts to safeguard the American people and economy.

HONORING SETH BARTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Barton. Seth is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Seth has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Seth has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Seth has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Seth Barton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN TRIBUTE OF MS. KATHLEEN LEDWIDGE AND MR. WALTER JOHNSEN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Kathleen Ledwidge and Mr. Walter Johnsen, who brought home the silver medals last Thursday from the Special Olympics World Games in Greece. Connecticut's Second District is honored to recognize the extraordinary sailors, Kathleen and Walter, who hail from Mystic and Stonington, respectively.

The very first time Walter and Kathleen sailed together was at the Special Olympic Games in Athens this year. Walter, who is only 15 years old, was partnered with Kathleen and they placed second, only points behind a team from Austria. While this may have been their first opportunity to sail together, these two have become lifelong friends who will sail the waters of the world for years to come.

Spike Lobdell, President of the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Club, said that every Tuesday afternoon, Walter, Kathy, and many other athletes attend training where their lessons not only improve their sailing skills but also their lives. He said that their goal is to teach life skills and that beyond their silver medals in the top bracket, "Kathy and Walter are even more impressive off the water."

As we know, the Special Olympics began its remarkable tradition more than forty years ago when founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver recited the oath that is still said today: "Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt." Since those sacred words were first spoken, 3.1 million athletes from 185 countries have participated in the Games, including the 12,000 who participated in Greece this year.

It is inspiring to witness such talent from individuals in Connecticut. It takes significant courage to represent your State and your country and I would like to commend them and their fellow athletes for their bravery. The Special Olympics will always serve as a reminder of the importance of giving everyone a chance to be themselves in a world where it is sometimes difficult to do so.

As President Barack Obama recently said, the "Special Olympics, as a champion for people with intellectual disabilities, teaches our nation—and our world—that no physical or mental barrier can restrain the power of the human spirit." We have seen that spirit in the accomplishments of these two sailors. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our sincerest congratulations to our brave and talented athletes, Ms. Kathleen Ledwidge and Mr. Walter Johnsen.

HONORING SPENCER HARTLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Hartley. Spencer is a very special young man who has

exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Hartley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONDEMNING RECENT VOTER SUPPRESSION LEGISLATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, Florida Governor Rick Scott signed into law an egregious Republican bill attacking from all angles one of the most fundamental rights of our democracy: the right to vote.

The transgressions contained in this bill are not minor inconveniences but elements of a systematic attack against the voting rights of minorities both in Florida and across the country.

In fact, since the adoption of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the Department of Justice has overturned a total of 428 separate laws across the country for unconstitutionally infringing on the voting rights of minorities. Governor Scott's law needs to be number 429.

The bill that Governor Scott and Florida Republicans have forced into law is nothing more than a backdoor poll tax. It limits access to the polls for minorities, seniors, and college students. It reduces the number of early voting days and imposes new restrictive regulations on voter registration groups.

With this bill, Governor Scott and the Republicans have sold out the most basic rights of Florida's voters in a brazen act of political gamesmanship reminiscent of Reconstruction.

Fortunately, DOJ is finally now reviewing the law after Republicans refused to submit their bill for preclearance. A number of groups, including the League of Women Voters and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), sent a letter to Secretary of State Kurt Browning opposing the law.

The ACLU and Project Vote Smart have also filed a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act to prevent implementation of these new rules. It is my hope that soon we can end the affront that is this discriminatory law.

We cannot sit idly by and let Governor Scott and his cronies in the Republican-led legislature turn back the clock on 40 years of progress just to create an advantage for themselves on Election Day.

It is the voters of Florida who stand to lose the most from this law, Mr. Speaker.

We have not come this far only to have Republicans maliciously undermine our fundamental rights as Americans. When the rights of Americans are trampled and discarded with nothing more than a shrug, it must not go overlooked.

We have noticed, we are furious, and we will not let this go!

HONORING DR. TERRY W. HEIMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Terry W. Heiman. Terry retired June 30 after 33 years serving the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Terry has served as the Director of Agricultural Education since 1984, providing the leadership and vision that has provided Missouri with a strong and expanding agricultural education program. Individual enrollment in agricultural education has doubled during Terry's leadership, with programs currently in 326 high schools and 12 community colleges. Terry also served as the state advisor to the Missouri Future Farmers of America program, watching that program grow to include more than 25,000 members. National organizations have also benefitted from Terry's leadership, including his time as National President of the National Supervisors of Agricultural Education and as a board member of the National FFA. Terry's commitment to agriculture has been recognized by the University of Missouri-Columbia as the College of Agriculture Alumnus of the Year and by the Missouri Farm Bureau for Outstanding Service to Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dr. Terry W. Heiman for his accomplishments with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and in wishing him the best of luck in the years to come.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
HAROLD KENNER

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hero of World War II, Private First Class Harold Kenner, United States Army. After 67 years, PFC Kenner is finally home and will be buried July 29 at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. It has been a long journey for this West Scranton, PA, native, but his story illustrates the military's commitment to bring its troops home—no matter how long it takes.

You see, PFC Kenner, a member of the Army's 401st Glider Infantry Regiment, G Company, was listed as missing in action on September 30, 1944, during Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands. The Allies used 933 gliders to bring its troops and supplies to the battlefield. The fight would last 72 days as the Allies tried to keep the corridor open in the Zon-Veghel area of Holland. The fighting was extremely heavy and so were the casualties. PFC Kenner died on that battlefield, but his body was not recovered.

PFC Kenner was buried in the Kiekberg Woods near Groesbeek, Netherlands, unbeknownst to the Army. His family was notified

of his death, but they did not know what happened to him or his body. In 1987, remains were found at that gravesite, and recently, thanks to DNA samples those remains were positively identified as PFC Harold Kenner. Now, this brave American soldier will return to his homeland and rest among other heroes at Arlington.

Harold Kenner was only 20 years old when he died, but he was a member of the Greatest Generation. Posthumously, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and Bronze Arrowhead Device, World War II Victory Medal, Glider Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button for World War II, French Croix de Guerre, Belgium Gourragere and Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

PFC Kenner died in the largest airborne operation in the war up to that point as the Allies attempted to seize a succession of bridges over the main rivers of the Nazi-occupied Netherlands, allowing them to outflank the Siegfried Line and advance into Northern Germany. The movie, *A Bridge Too Far*, told the story of this failed mission.

According to military records, members of Kenner's 401st and the 325th Glider Infantry regiments were dropped into an area around Grave and the Waal River in Nijmegen on September 23, 1944. They were dropped behind enemies lines and over the next week, PFC Kenner and his fellow soldiers were repeatedly attacked by the Germans. The wet, dense woods made it difficult for the men to navigate, and the weather resulted in rusted, jammed guns.

On the morning of September 30, the woods were lit up with a relentless barrage of artillery fire on both sides. Company commanders were ordered to move onward and continue the attack, despite the fact that their wounded were left in German positions. Heavily armed, the enemy held positions on both flanks. As the day wore on, G Company's communication lines broke down amid the chaos, leaving soldiers separated from their platoons and scattered throughout the dense woods. When the day finally ended, G Company had sustained heavy casualties, and five men were missing in action (MIA), including PFC Kenner.

A year later, on October 1, 1945, the War Department, despite never recovering a body, issued a finding of death for PFC Kenner. In the years that followed, the Kenners accepted that Harold was gone, but he was never out of their hearts.

The Army never gave up looking for the missing members of G Company in the Kiekberg Wood. Finally, in 1987, a second burial site was uncovered in the wooded area, two miles south of Groesbeek and seven miles southeast of Nijmegen. A Dutch search-and-recovery team turned the American soldier's remains over to the United States Army Memorial Affairs group in Europe. From there, PFC Kenner—not yet identified—went to Hawaii to the Central Identification Laboratory. It was believed that the skeleton was, indeed, one of the missing five G Company soldiers; specifically 1st Lt. Joseph F. Myers. CIA determined it was a male who was 17 to 23 years of age, between 64 and 70 inches tall and had a fracture on the left forearm at or near the time of death. They also determined it was not Lt. Myers.

The remains were returned to the Netherlands in 2001. Five years later, the CIA decided to try to examine the remains against DNA supplied by family members of the other four missing G Company members. Using the DNA and dental records, it was concluded that the remains were PFC Harold Kenner.

Harold's mother and father, Henry and Pearl Kenner, and his two siblings, Henry and Ruth, are deceased. But 50 members of his family will attend his funeral and finally bring this true American hero home. His journey is a vivid reminder of the heroism and sacrifices of our troops and our military families, whether they serve today or yesteryear. Welcome home, PFC Harold Kenner, and may you now rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 8, 2011, I missed rollcall votes 525–533. I was in my home state of California attending, in my role as Co-Chairman of the Congressional United Kingdom Caucus, a working reception in honor of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Had I been here, I would have voted:

“Yes” on rollcall vote 525: To reduce Defense Wide Operation and Maintenance by \$250 million in order to prohibit the Secretary of Defense from transferring \$250 million to the Department of Education to repair public schools on military bases operated by local education agencies.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 526: To reduce the Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund by \$3.6 billion.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 527: To reduce funding for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation by 1 percent saving \$730 million.

“No” on rollcall vote 528: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the curriculum of the Chaplain Corps Don't Ask, Don't Tell repeal training regarding the performance of same sex marriage ceremonies.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 529: None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to maintain an end strength level of members of the Armed Forces of the United States assigned to permanent duty in Europe in excess of 30,000 members. Reduces funding for military personnel by \$813 million.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 530: None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for military operations in or against Libya except under a Congressional declaration of war.

“No” on rollcall vote 531: Motion to recommit H.R. 2219 with instructions to transfer \$200 million from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund to the Yellow Ribbon Re-Integration program.

“No” on rollcall vote 532: On passage of H.R. 2219, Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

“Yes” on rollcall vote 533: On passage of H. Res. 340, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011.